

**Is It Really 'CLIVE & Co'?**  
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**by Mike Hempsall**

Looking through our latest bulletin I came across Roy's note and illustration for this new blanket die. It immediately struck a chord with me and I was eventually able to locate my copy. However, it was in my 'V' section!

When I obtained my example of this die (some 20+ years ago) it was on what had originally been a joined vertical pair of stamps - the die is struck sideways vertically on a pair of 4d 'I' (King George V typographs). It reads downwards from the front: 'CLI VE &C(only a portion of)'.

So, why did I file this pair among try 'V' stamps, discounting the possibility that this was a 'CLIVE & C...' die? Well, on examination, it became clear that the tops/bottoms of the 'LI' and 'VE' portions were not in horizontal alignment as one would have expected with a 'CLIVE & C..' solution. The 'LI' is lower down than the 'VE' in relation to the edges of the stamps - the difference being about ½mm. This therefore suggested to me that the 'CLI' portion was the right hand end of the blanket die and that the 'VE' bit was its left hand end.

I then examined the portion of the right hand 'C' and, overlaying the left hand stamp over it, found it fitted very well. Thus, rightly or wrongly, I concluded this read 'VE&CLI'. The latter portion just fits onto one stamp. If I am correct in my interpretation, this would explain why the anticipated '&Co' bit which Roy refers to in the bulletin has never turned up.

I have enclosed computer 'flipped' photocopies of both solutions and would be interested to know what others think.

